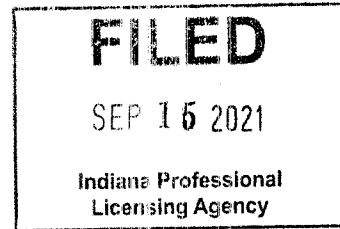


BEFORE THE INDIANA STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING  
CAUSE NUMBER: 2021 NB 0047

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF: )  
 )  
CONNIE ELIZABETH SNEED, L.P.N., )  
 )  
LICENSE NO.: 27035833A )



**ORDER ACCEPTING VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT**  
**TO SUMMARY SUSPENSION EXTENSION**

The Petitioner, the State of Indiana, by Natalie R. Stidd, Deputy Attorney General, (“Petitioner”), and Connie Elizabeth Sneed, R.N. (“Respondent”), with counsel, William P. McCall, III, filed before the Indiana State Board of Nursing (“Board”) a Voluntary Agreement to Summary Suspension Extension (“Agreement”) which was submitted to the Board for approval on August 19, 2021.

The Board, after reviewing the Agreement at its regularly scheduled meeting held by Webex audio and video conference on August 19, 2021, now finds by a vote of 6-0-0 it has been entered into fairly and without fraud, duress, or undue influence, and is fair and equitable between the parties. The Board hereby incorporates the Agreement, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**, and approves and adopts in full the Agreement.

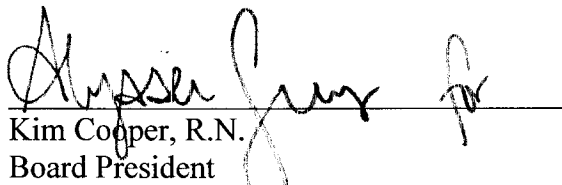
**WHEREFORE**, the Board hereby accepts and approves the Agreement summarily suspending Respondent’s license for ninety (90) days, and Respondent is hereby **ORDERED** to abide by all the terms of the Agreement.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Order shall serve as notice to all parties that this matter is reset on **NOVEMBER 18, 2021 at 8:30 AM, local time**, for a hearing to be held at the Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room B, 302 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, or as otherwise directed by the Board, at which the Board will

consider whether the summary suspension of Respondent's license should be extended for an additional ninety (90) days.

**SO ORDERED**, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021; this **Order is effective as of the 19<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.**

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:   
Kim Cooper, R.N.  
Board President  
Indiana State Board of Nursing

**[BALANCE OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the “Order Accepting Voluntary Agreement to Summary Suspension Extension” has been duly served upon:

Connie E. Sneed  
610 Roseview Terrace  
New Albany, Indiana 47150  
**Service by U.S. Mail**

William P. McCall, III  
332 Spring Street  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
**Service by U.S. Mail**  
*Counsel for Respondent*

Natalie R. Stidd  
Deputy Attorney General  
Office of the Indiana Attorney General  
Indiana Government Center South  
302 West Washington Street, Fifth Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
natalie.stidd@atg.in.gov  
**Service by Email**

9. 15. 2021  
Date

*Lisa Chapman*  
Lisa Chapman, Litigation Coordinator

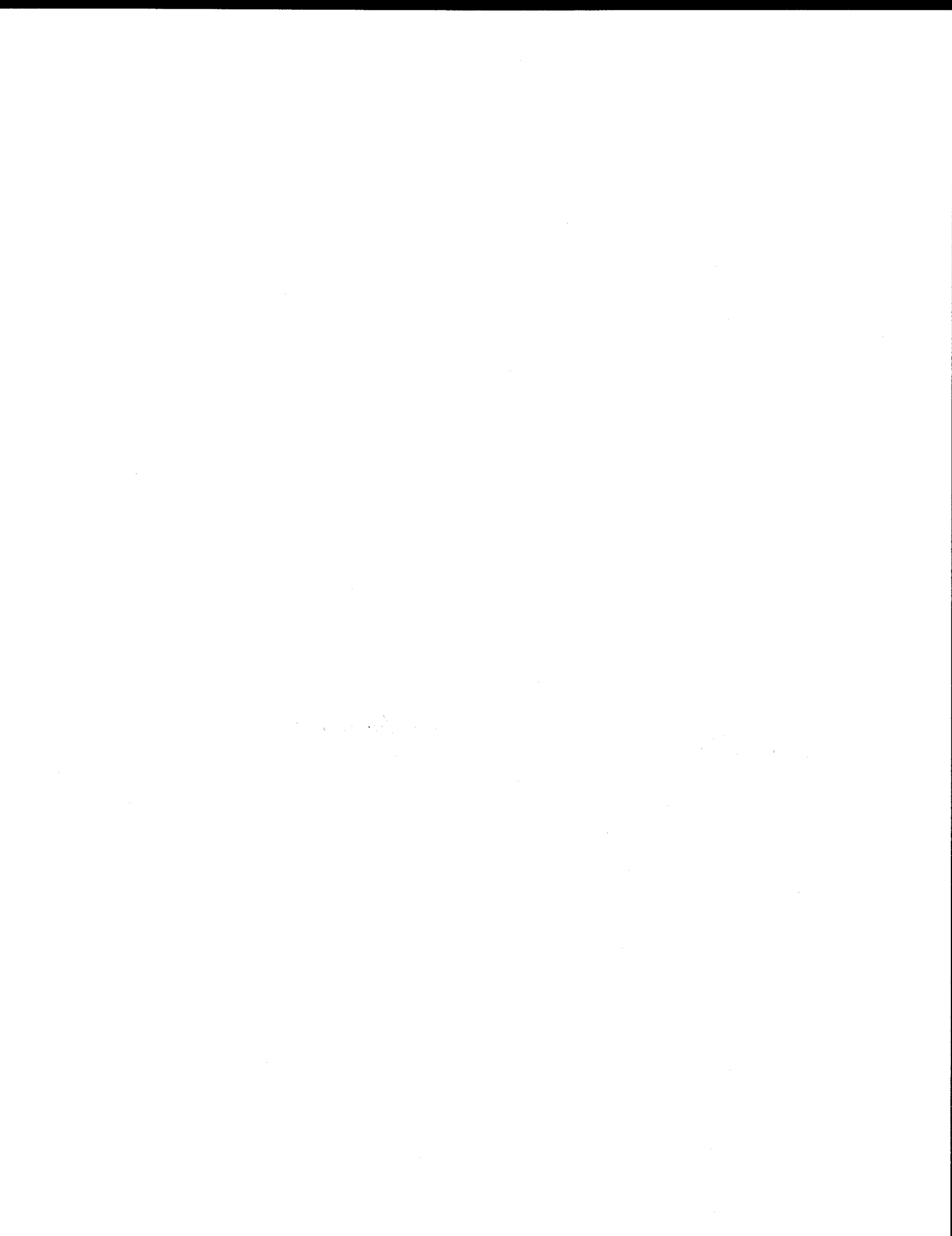
Indiana State Board of Nursing  
Indiana Government Center South  
402 West Washington St., Room W072  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: 317-234-2043  
Email: [pla2@pla.in.gov](mailto:pla2@pla.in.gov)

**Explanation of Service Methods**

Personal Service: by delivering a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) personally.

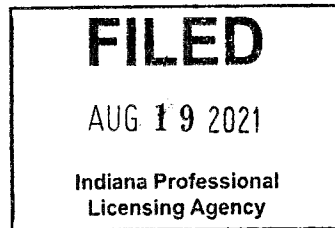
Service by U.S. Mail: by serving a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) by First Class U.S. Mail, postage prepaid.

Service by Email: by sending a true copy of the aforesaid document(s) to the individual’s electronic mail address.



IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF  
CONNIE ELIZABETH SNEED, L.P.N.  
LICENSE NO.: 27035833A

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VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT TO SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The State of Indiana, by Deputy Attorney General Natalie R. Stidd and Connie Elizabeth Sneed, R.N. ("Respondent"), with counsel, William P. McCall, III, hereby execute this Voluntary Agreement in regard to the Summary Suspension of Respondent's license as a practical nurse, which is based upon the Petition for Summary Suspension filed in this cause on March 30, 2021 ("Petition"). This Agreement is subject to the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, Ind. Code § 4-21.5-3 *et seq.* and the review and approval of the Indiana State Board of Nursing ("Board"). In the event that the Agreement is not approved by the Board, this Agreement shall be null and void and, in accordance with Indiana Rule of Evidence 408, may not be introduced into evidence in any civil, criminal or administrative proceeding. This AGREEMENT is based upon the following:

1. Respondent is a licensed practical nurse in the State of Indiana, having obtained license number 27035833A, which was issued by examination on December 7, 1992.
2. Respondent's address on file with the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency ("IPLA") is 610 Roseview Terrace, New Albany, Indiana 47150
3. This Board has jurisdiction to suspend Respondent's license in accordance with Ind. Code ch. 4-21.5-4 *et seq.* and Ind. Code § 25-1-9-10.

Exhibit  
A

4. On July 22, 2005, Respondent began working as a nurse at Wedgewood Healthcare Center ("Wedgewood") in Clarksville, Indiana, a skilled nursing facility. In 2017, Wedgewood was purchased/became operated by Communicare, but remained under the name Wedgewood.

5. On March 25, 2021, Respondent was charged in Clark County, Indiana, under Cause Number 10C01-2103-F5-000076, with level 5 Felony Unlawful Practice of Medicine, as set forth by Ind. Code §§ 25-22.5-8-1 and 25-22.5-8-2(a). Specifically, Respondent is charged for removing the oxygen supply from Patient J.G., a nursing home patient suffering from Covid-19, without obtaining a physician's authorization to do so.

6. Ind. Code §§ 25-22.5-8-1 and 25-22.5-8-2(a) provide as follows:

**Ind. Code § 25-22.5-8-1 Unlawful Practice.** It is unlawful for any person to practice medicine or osteopathic medicine in this state without holding a license or permit to do so, as provided in this article.

**Ind. Code § 25-22.5-8-2(a)** A person who knowingly or intentionally violates this article by unlawfully practicing medicine or osteopathic medicine commits a Class C felony (for a crime committed before July 1, 2014) or a Level 5 felony (for a crime committed after June 30, 2014).

7. The Affidavit for Probable Cause ("APC"), also filed March 25, 2021, was prepared and sworn by Jack Davis, Investigator for the Office of the Indiana Attorney General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, on March 18, 2021.

8. Investigator Davis's APC sets forth information obtained in the course of his investigation of Respondent's care of Patient J.G. while she was employed at Wedgewood.

9. On March 13, 2020, Patient J.G., age seventy-two (72), was admitted to Wedgewood with diagnoses including dementia with behavioral disturbance, anemia, generalized muscle weakness, and difficulty walking. Patient J.G.'s Power of Attorney ("POA") was his daughter, M.S.

10. On or about April 26, 2020, Patient J.G. was diagnosed with Covid-19.

11. Respondent was providing care to Patient J.G. before and after the April 26, 2020 diagnosis.

12. On April 30, 2020, at approximately 8:45 a.m., Patient J.G. was found without a pulse or blood pressure by the nurse on shift, who had taken report from Respondent. Patient J.G.'s death was confirmed by another nurse. At that time, the patient's daughter/POA was notified, as well as Wedgewood's medical director, Dr. Siraj Siddiqi and Nurse Practitioner Amanda Wade.

13. On May 4, 2020, Wedgewood's Executive Director Scott Stewart ("E.D. Stewart") contacted the Clarksville Police Department in reference to a death investigation, after a Facebook post made by Respondent was brought to E.D. Stewart's attention.

14. The Facebook post at issue was made by "Connie Ellis" with "Ellis" being a prior legal last name of Respondent, and was as follows:

Connie Ellis  
May 1 at 11:00 AM

I just want y'all to know the hardest thing I've ever done in 28 years start a patient on O2 for 4 days 12 LPM. with a non-rebreather mask and I asked him on day 4 if he's tired he says yes I said are you tired of fighting he said yes I said do you want me to take all this off for you and let you go and fly with the angels and he said yes I took it all off of him I went in the hallway and I cried and I let him go and he did pass away 1 hour and 45 minutes after I left

[D.M.] and 62 others 22 Comments

15. Respondent's nursing note or Progress Note for Patient J.G., with the "Effective Date" of April 30, 2020 at 1:00, made as an "Infection Note," e-signed by Respondent, is as follows:

Note Text: Assessed at beginning of shift and monitored throughout, resident continues on w/diaphragmatic breathing, o2 sats 64% on 10 LPM via non-rebreather mask, appears weak and tired. able to answer yes/no questions. asked resident if [resident] was tired, [resident] shook [resident's] head yes, asked

resident if [resident] was tired of fighting and did [resident] want to let go and go to heaven resident shook [head] yes. Daughter notified and is at peace w/ condition and outcome. all o2 removed at this time, repositioned in bed for comfort, reassurance given to resident it was okay to let go and be at peace, condition guarded, is covid positive and a DNR.

16. Respondent's note does not indicate that a physician was contacted or consulted, nor is there any record of an in-person or telehealth visit between a physician or nurse practitioner and Patient J.G. after April 28, 2020.

17. Respondent was suspended from Wedgewood on May 4, 2020, pending the investigation, and on May 6, 2020, Respondent was terminated from Wedgewood for violating Communicare's policies and procedures regarding "Physician Notification for Change in Condition Reporting."

18. Subsequent investigation of the death of Patient J.G. included investigation by Office of the Indiana Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Investigator Jack Davis ("Investigator Davis"), as well as the Indiana State Department of Health ("ISDH") Surveyors.

19. In the course of the separate interviews with an ISDH Surveyor and Investigator Davis, Respondent admitted that the oxygen was administered to Patient J.G. without obtaining an order from a physician or notifying a physician of the resident's change in condition.

20. Respondent admitted that she failed to notify a physician of Patient J.G.'s declining condition, and Respondent admitted that without consulting a physician, she removed the oxygen from Patient J.G.

21. Respondent neither admits nor denies the allegations contained in the Petition for Summary Suspension or the allegations related to the pending criminal cause in Clark County, Indiana, filed on March 25, 2021. However, Respondent recognizes the serious nature of the

allegations and wishes to agree to the non-final summary suspension extension of her nursing license for a period of ninety (90) days.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

22. The agreement of the parties as stated above establishes a sufficient factual and legal basis for the suspension of the Respondent's license pursuant to Ind. Code § 25-1-9-10.

WHEREAS, this matter is set for hearing before the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Respondent and Petitioner wish to resolve this non-final matter prior to a hearing and have reached a resolution.

IT IS NOW THEREFORE AGREED by Respondent and Petitioner as follows:

TERMS and CONDITIONS

1. The Board has jurisdiction over the Respondent and the subject matter in this action commenced on March 30, 2021.

2. The parties execute this Agreement voluntarily.

3. At this time, Respondent and Petitioner voluntarily waive their rights to a public hearing on the Petition.

4. Respondent has carefully read and examined this Agreement and fully understands its terms.

5. Respondent's license shall be **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED** for an additional ninety (90) day period.

6. The parties agree to the continuing jurisdiction of the Board.

WHEREFORE, the parties agree that Respondent's license is summarily suspended for ninety (90) days upon the Board's acceptance of this Agreement. This Matter will be reset for a

hearing on November 18, 2021, to determine whether the summary suspension should be extended.

8/19/21  
Date

Connie E. Sneed  
Connie E. Sneed, L.P.N.  
Respondent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

William P. McCall, III  
William P. McCall, III  
Counsel for Respondent  
Attorney No. 14159-10

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie R. Stidd  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorney No. 28081-55

will be reset for a hearing on **November 18, 2021**, to determine whether the summary suspension should be extended.

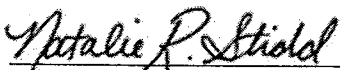
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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie E. Sneed, L.P.N.  
Respondent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
William P. McCall, III  
Counsel for Respondent  
Attorney No. 14159-10

August 19, 2021  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Natalie R. Stidd  
Deputy Attorney General  
Attorney No. 28081-55

